

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 FCC-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 USIA-06 COME-00 BIB-01 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1601

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, IMCO

SUBJECT: MARISAT

REFS: A. TOKYO 9217; B. STATE 131730

1. HIDAKA, OF THE MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT, MINISTRY OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (MPT), REQUESTED EMBOFF COME TO THE MINISTRY ON 13 AUGUST TO DISCUSS A PROPOSAL ENTITLED "DRAFT AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISION OF AN EARTH STATION IN JAPAN TO OPERATE WITH THE MARISAT INDIAN OCEAN SATELLITE." THE DRAFT, DATED 11 AUGUST 1976, WAS THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN KDD AND COMSAT GENERAL DURING THE PAST WEEK AND BOTH SIDES SIGNED THE AGREEMENT PROVISIONALLY ON 13 AUGUST.

2. HIDAKA REFERRED TO THE 4 JUNE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF REPORTED REFTEL A. HE NOTED EMBOFF HAD SAID AT THAT TIME THE FCC WAS NOT PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE AN EXPANSION OF THE MARISAT SYSTEM TO INCLUDE EARTH STATIONS OUTSIDE U.S. TERRITORY. THEREFORE, THE MINISTRY NOW WONDERED IF THE DRAFT PROPOSAL PRESENTED BY COMSAT GENERAL SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS A CHANGE IN ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE FCC.

3. EMBOFF REPLIED THAT THE INTENT OF HIS REMARKS ON 4 JUNE HAD BEEN TO PROVIDE THE MINISTRY SOME INSIGHT AS
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TO THE ORIGINAL INTENT AND LIMITATIONS OF THE CURRENT

FCC MARISAT AUTHORIZATION IN LIGHT OF HIDAKA'S PREVIOUS COMMENTS SUGGESTING JAPAN'S PREFERENCE FOR MARISAT AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR INMARSAT. EMBOFF SAID THAT IN MAKING THE POINT THAT THE FCC HAD, UP TO THAT TIME, RECEIVED NO APPLICATIONS TO EXPAND THE SYSTEM TO INCLUDE EARTH STATIONS OUTSIDE U.S. TERRITORY, HE HAD TRIED TO AVOID AN ASSERTION OF HOW THE FCC MIGHT REACT IF AND WHEN SUCH APPLICATION WERE RECEIVED.

4. HIDAKA EXPLAINED COMSAT GENERAL WAS UNABLE TO LOCATE THE INDIAN OCEAN SATELLITE EARTH STATION ON GUAM BECAUSE OF SIGNAL INTERFERENCE FROM INDONESIAN AND INDIAN DOMESTIC SATELLITES.

5. HE STATED MPT BELIEVES THE PROVISIONS UNDER ARTICLE III OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH PERTAIN TO KDD'S RESPONSIBILITIES ARE MANAGEABLE, PROVIDED FREQUENCY COORDINATION CAN BE WORKED OUT. THE MINISTRY THINKS A MORE SERIOUS OBSTACLE COULD BE ADVERSE POLITICAL REACTION BY SOME DIET MEMBERS WHO MAY DRAW ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE OVER 75 PERCENT OF THE CAPACITY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN MARISAT IS TO BE DEDICATED TO U.S. MILITARY USE.

6. THE MINISTRY IS GIVING INTENSIVE STUDY TO THE PROPOSAL BUT FEELS IT NEEDS CLARIFICATION OF U.S. INTENT TO PROVIDE COMSTAT GENERAL NEEDED AUTHORIZATION SET FORTH IN PARA F ARTICLE II OF THE AGREEMENT. IN REQUESTING EMBASSY ASSISTANCE, HIDAKA NOTED THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THE EARTH STATION TO BE OPERATIONAL BY JANUARY 1, 1977, AND SAID AN EARLY REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
SHOESMITH

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